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**WISCONSIN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
URGES ADMINISTRATION TO EXTEND SENIORCARE**

Washington, D.C. - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) joined with the entire Wisconsin Congressional delegation today to urge Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt to extend the federal waiver that allows Wisconsin seniors to use the SeniorCare program instead of a Medicare Part-D drug plan for prescription drug coverage. The current SeniorCare waiver is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2007, and, without an extension, the program would no longer be an option for Wisconsin seniors.

“SeniorCare works for Wisconsin’s seniors! It provides an efficient, easy to understand, and cost effective alternative to the Part-D drug plans and we shouldn’t end that,” said Obey, the Dean of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation and Chairman of the House Appropriation Committee.

“In fact, instead of scrapping SeniorCare for Medicare Part-D, we should be revamping Part-D so that it works more

like SeniorCare.â€

In a letter to Secretary Leavitt urging him to extend the SeniorCare waiver, the Wisconsin Congressional delegation argued that â€œSeniorCare is an extremely successful programâ€ with a â€œhuge impact on the state of Wisconsin.â€ They noted that an Administration decision to deny the waiver extension â€œwould cause potential breaks in prescription drug coverage, confusion, and bureaucratic problems for many vulnerable seniors.â€

The letter also pointed out that replacing SeniorCare with Medicare Part-D plans would cost taxpayers more money. â€œThe average annual federal subsidy for a SeniorCare waiver participant is \$617, less than half the \$1,174 the federal government spends to subsidize a Part D participant,â€ it read.

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